Mr. C. A. Ouseph —May I know whether the ultimate idea is to develop our own scheme?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Does the correspondence so far show that in the idea of entering into negotiations Government has the intention of developing our own scheme?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It does.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May we know how?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Unfortunately I cannot divulge all these conditions, because it is a commercial concern and it is not wise or practical to divulge all these details. It is not fair either to us or to them.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I submit that it is not fair to us that, when we have our own scheme, we should go to a foreign power?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Government will consider that and pass them only if they are favourable to us.

Hydro-Electric Scheme.

51. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government has given up the State Hydro-Electric Scheme referred to above?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—The State Hydro-Electric Scheme is under consideration of the Government.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Is the Government in a position to state to-day that the Hydro-Electric Scheme of our State will not be given up?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—The State scheme will not be given up.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Is the Government in a position to give us an assurance?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—That is what I stated.

Condition of Moongilmada Road.

52. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) has the attention of the Government been drawn to the deplorable condition of the road from Palghat boundary to the Pollachi boundary *via* Kozhinjampara popularly called Moongilmada road;

(2) is it not a fact that the road was not in such a bad condition at any time before;

(3) were not complaints received from bus owners and others regarding it; if so, what is the action taken;

(4) is it not a main trunk road;

(5) what is the reason for its present miserable condition

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(6) is not the P. W. D. responsible for it; the name of officer or officers responsible with action taken may be stated against them?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—(1) It was brought to the notice of the Government that certain portions of the road were in a bad condition.

(2) Not a fact.

(3) Yes.

The bad portions have since been repaired.

(4) Yes.

(5) It is not in a miserable condition at present. The rain and the heavy traffic over the road tended considerably to damage the road surface.

(6) No.

Please see answer above.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—May I know who is responsible for the conditions of the roads in the Cochin State?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—That is answered in (5).

President.—That is not the Hon'ble Member's question.

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—I have said that the P. W. D. is not responsible. From the answer to (5) it follows that the rain and heavy traffic tended considerably to damage road surface. It is clear that the bad condition of the road is due to rain and heavy traffic.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—In that sense all the roads are bad.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is it peculiar to that road?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—That is the case with many other roads also.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—(2) When was it worse?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—The question was 'is it not a fact that the road was not in a such a bad condition at any time before'. There have been times when it was worse.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—When was it worse?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—There might have been times when they might have been worse.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Was there any time when the roads were worse than this?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—I have not made any note of such periods.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Without inquiring, how was such an answer given?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—I have been in charge of the road for the past six or seven years. It is from my experience that the answer has been given.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—They were in a very bad condition when you were in charge of the road?

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Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—Sometimes they were in a bad condition and sometimes they were in excellent condition.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know whether there is a permanent fund to attend to urgent repairs?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Is that being done in this road as soon as damages occur?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—How does the Member explain then that it is the rain and heavy traffic that have caused damage?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—A particular spot which is damaged may not be immediately attended to.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—That is my question. Whether there is any arrangement to attend to immediate repairs as they do in Travancore?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—In this State damages are attended to as soon as possible. I cannot say immediately. Immediately may mean a minute, hour or month. So far as this road is concerned, I noticed the condition when I inspected the place in Chingam and the Assistant Engineer has taken action. He solicited my personal approval of the steps he took. Later on only I approached the Government for sanction. It was attended to within a week or two.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know whether there are funds at the disposal of the Chief Engineer for immediate repairs?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—Only the ordinary maintenance allotments. The road is 500 feet in length. It is extremely difficult to meet the expenditure from the maintenance allotments. I get sanction from the Government for special renewal.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—The maintenance of the roads will be over by the end of the maintenance season, by the end of Vrischigam.

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—For that particular season it will be over.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—What is the present condition of the road, especially near the toll gate?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—When I went last time it was good.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—When was it?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—It was in Thulam.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—The Hon'ble Member said that the roads were sometimes in excellent condition. Who was responsible for that?

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Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—I do not want to take credit or give credit. It was in excellent condition.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—May I know who was responsible?

Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar.—The officers on the spot.

Service Commission.

53. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

1. whether the Government proposes to appoint a Service Commission in the State to make recommendations in the matter of appointments in Government service;

2. if there is such a proposal, will the Government be pleased to state the nature and composition of the Commission;

3. what is roughly the number of appointments on an average that will have to be made in the State per mensem?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—1 and 2. The proposal is under consideration.

3. Information is not available on the point.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Has any definite action been taken subsequent to the answer?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Were any definite suggestions made with regard to the appointment of the Commission by the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No.

54. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government has in view any definite principle with regard to the representation of all communities in the Government service;

(b) whether the Government has accepted that appointments should be made in the Government service from amongst the various communities in the State on a population basis;

(c) if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state whether the whole population or the literate section of the same is taken into account for that purpose?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Vide answer to question No. 53.

55. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether there is any proposal to appoint a Public Service Commission in Cochin;

(b) how did the idea originate;

(c) at what stage does it stand now?

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